

PERA

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Providence External Review Authority

**BI-ANNUAL
REPORT
FOR FISCAL YEAR
2006
Part 1**

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David N. Cicilline
Mayor

PROVIDENCE EXTERNAL REVIEW AUTHORITY

City of Providence, RI

January 24, 2006

Officers

Chair
Paul Caswell

ANNUAL REPORT

Vice Chair
Luz Bravo-Gleicher

Treasurer
Philip McKendall

We are pleased to submit the 2005 Annual Report of the Providence External Review Authority (PERA) and its governing body, the PERA Board of Directors. This report covers the agency's operations during the calendar year 2005.

Secretary
Kohei Ishihara

This is the first annual report submitted by the agency, which opened its doors to the public on June 24, 2005. Our goal has been to establish an agency that provides the citizens of Providence, RI, with an independent and impartial forum for the investigation and resolution of police misconduct complaints filed by the public against sworn officers of the Providence Police Department. PERA has made substantial progress over the course of 2005 to bring this agency to operational status, and provide the intended service to the citizens of Providence. We report here our accomplishments for that year and how we plan to build towards greater service in 2006.

Board Members
Stanley A. Bleecker
Kenneth Brown
Rev. James H. Cook
Robin Evans
Eva-Ann Geoppo
Mary Kay Harris
John Hearn
Dr. Arthur Jones
David Marshall
Oscar Vargas
Morris Weintraub
Myrth York

In January Leon Drezek joined PERA as our Executive Director bringing his extensive, professional investigative experience from his previous federal service with both the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and the US Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations (FDA-OCI). Mr. Drezek relocated to the City of Providence in October 2005, complying with city residency requirements. His current staff includes Confidential Secretary Kathy Gee and Contract Investigator Kevin Deary, a retired FBI agent/criminal investigator with significant experience conducting federal civil rights violation investigations.

development. It is anticipated that numerous additional complaints will be referred for formal investigation in the near future now that PERA is in receipt of a City Solicitor Office decision that allows PERA on a case-by-case basis to conduct an investigation that has previously been referred to the Office of Internal Affairs. Of the complaints received during 2005, the number of complaints in each category is as follows:

Incidents Category


- 12 Complaints alleging Excessive Force
- 2 Complaints alleging Inappropriate Conduct/Language
- 3 Complaints alleging Harassment by the Police
- 0 Complaints alleging Theft
- 4 Complaints alleging Discrimination/Racial Profiling
- 5 Other - complaints involving allegations of unresponsiveness on the part of the Police.


At the onset of 2006 the PERA Board of Directors consisted of sixteen appointed and active members out of a full complement of twenty members as detailed in the PERA ordinance. The roster of board members is attached. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the nominating authorities for sustaining the board and urge them to make the necessary appointments and reappointments in 2006.

For calendar year 2006, PERA expects to be able to accomplish the complete cycle of complaint, investigation and hearing. We plan to provide a program of classes and lectures to expand the education of board members. Community outreach will be extended including additional handouts that will explain the PERA process. Finally we expect to update our policies and procedures to improve our service to the citizens of Providence. In addition, we believe that as the public becomes more knowledgeable of the existence of PERA, and more informed concerning our mission, the numbers of police misconduct complaints lodged with PERA will increase substantially.

Finally we wish to thank the following for their support in 2005. Mayor David Cicilline and his staff are lauded for endorsing PERA and fully integrating our office into the city structure. We once again thank the City Council as a whole for creating PERA and sustaining our funding. We also thank those individual council members, led by council leaders John Lombardi, Balbina Young, and Luis Aponte for their continued support and expert advice. We also wish to recognize Stephanie Federico, Esquire and her predecessor Olayinka Oredugba, Esquire, for their service as our legal advisors.

Respectfully Submitted,


Paul Caswell - Board Chair


Leon C. Drezek - Executive Director